

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image taking lens system provided, in succession from an object side to an image side, with:

5 a first lens unit adapted to be not moved for focusing;

 a second lens unit adapted to be moved to the image side in case of focusing from an infinity object to a short-distance object;

10 a third lens unit adapted to be moved to the object side in case of the focusing from the infinity object to the short-distance object; and

 a fourth lens unit;

 wherein a principal point interval between said
15 first lens unit and said second lens unit is a negative value.

2. An image taking lens system according to Claim 1, wherein said first lens unit has positive
20 optical power, said second lens unit has negative optical power, said third lens unit has positive optical power, and said fourth lens unit has negative optical power.

25 3. An image taking lens system according to Claim 1, wherein the photographing magnification of said image taking lens system for a closest range

object is -0.5 time or less.

4. An image taking lens system according to
Claim 1, wherein the following conditions are
5 satisfied:

$$0.8 < |f_2|/f < 3.0$$

where f_2 is a focal length of said second lens unit
and f is a focal length of an entire system.

10 5. An image taking lens system according to
Claim 1, wherein the following conditions are
satisfied:

$$0.8 < |f_3|/f < 1.1$$

where f_3 is a focal length of said third lens unit
15 and f is a focal length of an entire system.

6. An image taking lens system according to
Claim 1, wherein among lens elements with which said
first lens unit is provided, the lens element located
20 most adjacent to the object side is a meniscus-shaped
negative lens element, and satisfies the following
condition:

$$-2.0 < f_{11}/f < -0.8,$$

where f_{11} is a focal length of said meniscus-shaped
25 negative lens element, and f is a focal length of an
entire system.

7. An image taking lens system according to Claim 1, wherein the following conditions are satisfied:

$$2.3 < f_{12}/f < 4.3$$

5 where f_{12} is a composite focal length of said first lens unit and said second lens unit when the image taking lens system is focused on the infinity object, and f is a focal length of an entire system.

10 8. An image taking lens system according to Claim 1, wherein the following conditions are satisfied:

$$1.4 < f_{34}/f < 3.0$$

15 where f_{34} is a composite focal length of said third lens unit and said fourth lens unit when the image taking lens system is focused on the infinity object and f is a focal length of an entire system.

20 9. An image taking lens system according to Claim 1, wherein the following conditions are satisfied:

$$1.0 < f_{12}/f_{34} < 2.5,$$

25 where f_{12} is a composite focal length of said first lens unit and said second lens unit when the image taking lens system is focused on the infinity object and f_{34} is a composite focal length of said third lens unit and said fourth lens unit when the image taking

lens system is focused on the infinity object.

10. An image taking lens system according to Claim 1, wherein the following condition is
5 satisfied:

$$-0.5 < \Delta s_2 / \Delta s_3 < -0.3,$$

where Δs_2 is a maximum movement amount of said
second lens unit in case of focusing, and Δs_3 is a
maximum movement amount of said third lens unit in
10 case of focusing.

11. An image taking lens system provided with:
a first lens unit;
a second lens unit;
15 a third lens unit; and
a fourth lens unit;
wherein in case of focusing, said image taking
lens system is changed in an interval between said
first lens unit and said second lens unit, an
20 interval between said second lens unit and said third
lens unit, and an interval between said third lens
unit and said fourth lens unit, a principal point
interval between said first lens unit and said second
lens unit is negative, and the photographing
25 magnification of said image taking lens system for a
closest range object is -0.5 time or less.

12. An image taking lens system according to
Claim 11, wherein said first lens unit has positive
optical power, said second lens unit has negative
optical power, said third lens unit has positive
5 optical power, and said fourth lens unit has negative
optical power.